

REMARKS

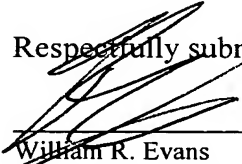
Another Substitute Specification is attached to attend to the corrections courteously suggested in the Action.

The rejections corresponding objections to claims 4 and 9 are correspondingly attended to above. Changing "duration" to -- for -- for syntax does not narrow these claims so as to raise Festo-like limitations even if the objections were considered statutory rejections.

The objection to claim 9 is attended to by reversing the alternative order to make it clear as those in the art would have understood that hydrofluoric cleaning only follows thermal oxidation cleaning and not CMP. Therefore, a no substantive change is made in claim 9, no Festo-like limitations can arise.

Reconsideration and allowance are, therefore, requested.

Respectfully submitted,



William R. Evans
c/o Ladas & Parry LLP
26 West 61st Street
New York, New York 10023
Reg. No. 25858
Tel. No. (212) 708-1930